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EXAMINER

HOEL, MATTHEW D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3713

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/992,392

Applicant(s)

LOCKE ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew D. Hoel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments filed Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding new matter, the examiner should have stated that the previous amendments changed the scope of the claims requiring a new determination of anticipation and obviousness. No new matter was added to the specification by the previous amendments. The previous "Response to Arguments" of the non-final action of Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005, are incorporated by reference as the applicants have not overcome any of the examiner's grounds of rejection.
2. Regarding the 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph rejections, the applicants state that the case *in re Wands* requires that the specification should not require undue experimentation of one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the invention. This is correct. This does not, however, relieve the applicants of their duty to properly enable the claimed embodiments of their invention in the specification. The examiner found two examples in the prior art as to how one could have discrete symbols moving at one velocity and a continuous graphical element moving at another velocity. One way to do this would be to have a mechanical reel with a continuous graphical element with a needle or "bug" superimposed in front of the reel, as described by the examiner in the 11-29-2005 rejection. Another way would be to use a translucent outer reel with symbols on it superimposed over a concentric inner reel as described by Inoue in U.S. patent 5,752,881 A. These examples are discussed on page 7 of the 11-29-2005 rejection.

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The examples found by the examiner in the prior are not “a reel” per se; they are a mechanical indicator with a needle or “bug” in front of it, or two concentric reels. They are not “a reel” as cited in Claim 1. The examiner still does not know how the applicants reduced their mechanical embodiment to practice, as the prior art mechanisms are all very different from each other. The applicants also state that a patent preferably does not teach what is well known in the art. Given that having a discrete symbol and a continuous graphical symbol moving at different velocities is the feature the applicants claim as their inventive step, it is incumbent on them to properly enable this feature in the specification. The applicants state that the comments in Para. 12 of the 11-29-2005 rejection are irrelevant to the enablement inquiry—they are central to the enablement inquiry, as they clearly demonstrate how a discrete symbol and a continuous graphical symbol cannot move at different velocities if they are on the same physical reel. The applicants have not shown how they practiced their mechanical embodiment. The 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph rejections of the last office action are maintained.

3. Regarding the 101 rejections, they are maintained for the same reasons as the 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph rejections. The applicants state that if a claim defines a useful machine or manufacture by identifying the physical structure of the machine or manufacture in terms of its hardware or hardware and software combination, it defines a statutory product. The claims rejected under 101 in the previous action do pertain to statutory subject matter categories, but they are not “useful” because the mechanical embodiment of the invention is inoperative and therefor lacks utility for the same reasons it is not enabled as discussed in the 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph rejections of the last

office action. The examiner treated each claim as a whole, as he discussed in detail in the last office action how two examples of the prior art could enable a discrete symbol and a continuous graphical symbol to move at different velocities, although not on "a reel" as cited in Claim 1. The 101 rejections of the last office action are maintained.

4. Regarding the 103 rejections, the applicants state that there is no teaching in the prior art to combine Davies and Walker. The combination of Davies and Walker as demonstrated in the rejection of Claim 1, for example, of the previous office action clearly teaches every element of the claims the continuous graphical symbol of Walker was applied to the inner reel of Davies, with the discrete symbols of Davies being on the outer reel of the device resulting from the 103 combination. There was motivation in the prior art to do this 103 combination as an inner reel with a continuous graphical symbol and an outer reel with discrete symbols is taught by Inoue in 5,572,881 (1998), Fig. 2, three years before the applicants' priority date. This reference was used for a previous rejection by examiner O'Neill, which rejection was explained in detail and maintained by the present examiner in the last office action. The combination of a continuous graphical symbol and discrete symbols moving at different velocities is well known in the art. The applicants state that the continuous graphical symbol of Walker would not unify the discrete symbols of Davies. The examiner points to Figs. 4B and 4C of Walker. These figures show a continuous graphical symbol that smoothly changes at an even rate. This would serve to visually unify the discrete symbols imposed over the continuous graphical symbol, even more so than the MONOPOLY <sup>TM</sup> squares in Fig. 7 of the applicants' specification, which are discrete squares. The examiner interpreted

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the claims as broadly as reasonable without reading the limitations of the specification into the claims. Figs. 4B and 4C of Walker do not thematically unify the discrete symbols, like the continuous road (Fig. 3, application) or the MONOPOLY™ squares of the applicants' specification, but they do visually unify the discrete symbols as they provide a smooth, even background transition, as the inner reel bearing the continuous graphical symbol of Walker moves behind the outer reel bearing the discrete symbols of Davies in the slot machine of the 103 combination. Thematic unification of the discrete symbols is nowhere claimed. The 103 rejections of the last office action are maintained. The examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicants as to the claims' condition for allowability.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
2. The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.
3. Claims 8, 15, 23, 31, and 34 to 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.
4. As to Claims 8, 15, 23, and 31: The specification states that the reels may be physical reels driven by stepper motors (Page 3, Lines 29 and 30), so at first glance, it

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appears that Claims 8, 15, 23, and 31 are enabled by the specification. The only embodiment, however, described in detail in the specification is the embodiment in which the reels, including the continuous graphical element and discrete symbols, are displayed on a video display such as an LCD or CRT. Independent Claims 1 and 18 claim a reel bearing a plurality of discrete symbols and a continuous graphical element. Independent Claims 9 and 25 claim a reel bearing a plurality of discrete symbol positions and a continuous graphical element. These independent claims go on to claim the reel rotating, with the continuous graphical element moving at one velocity, and the discrete symbols or symbol positions moving at a second velocity. The specification clearly enables these independent claims for the video display embodiment, shown in Figs. 3 to 6, and discussed from Page 4, Line 26 to Page 7, Line 24. These independent claims, however, are not enabled for a mechanical reel. Nowhere in the specification is the operation of the invention for an embodiment involving mechanical reels discussed in detail. Only on Page 3, Lines 29 and 30, are mechanical reels driven by stepper motors mentioned.

5. The claims as worded could be reasonably interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art to mean a mechanical reel, with a continuous graphical element forming a background (such as a trail, road, or racetrack) silk-screened onto the reel, with a set of discrete symbols or symbol positions (such as typical slot symbols lemons, cherries, etc.) silk-screened over the continuous graphical element. Nothing in the specification indicates anything else. In such an embodiment, it would be impossible to move the continuous graphical element at one velocity and the discrete symbols or symbol

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positions at a second velocity, as they are both graphical representations on the same reel and can only move together at the same velocity as the reel is being rotated. It is obvious that they could move at different velocities in the video display embodiment, as symbols on a computer display can be programmed to move in any way desired. The examiner has several years of experience in aircraft simulation and knows much about aircraft instruments, which are mechanical indicators like slot machine reels. The only way to implement the two different velocities in a mechanical reel would be to have the continuous graphical element printed on the reel, so it can move at one velocity while the reel is being rotated, and to have the symbol or symbols moving superimposed over the reel, but not actually on it. The symbol or symbols could take the form of a needle, such as on a speedometer, or a "bug," such as the round, pink maximum airspeed symbol on an aircraft's airspeed indicator. The symbol in the form of needle or bug would be driven by a separate drive, such as a servo, synchro, or D'Arsonval mechanism, and would move independently of and in front of the rotating reel to give the discrete symbol its second velocity. If this were the case, the reel would no longer bear the discrete symbols, since they would not be on the reel or driven by it. Another way to implement the two different velocities of the continuous graphical element and discrete symbols would be to use the opaque inner reel and transparent outer reel of Inoue (U.S. patent 5,395,111 A), by the same inventor as the '881 reference cited in the previous action. One of ordinary skill in the art could reasonably consider the inner and outer reels of Inoue ('881) to be a single reel, since they are concentric, rotating about the same point in the same plane, and are used in place of and for the same function as



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the single reel used in most slot machines. There simply is no way to mechanically implement these claims with both the continuous graphical element and the discrete symbols being borne on the same individual reel. Claims 1, 8, 18, and 25 are only operative in the video format, not the mechanical format.

6. As to Claims 34 to 37: These claims were obviously introduced to overcome the '881 reference cited in the last office action. Page 3, Lines 29 and 30, cites stepper reels driven by stepper motors. The specification does not, however, say that a reel is only a single reel. This is a negative limitation that is found nowhere in the specification.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

7. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

8. Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

9. Claims 8, 15, 23, 31, and 34 to 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the disclosed invention is inoperative and therefore lacks utility. The invention in the mechanical reel embodiment is inoperative and lacks utility because the specification does not explain how one of ordinary skill in the art can make or use the invention using a mechanical reel as in Claims 8, 5, 23, and 31 or using a single reel as in Claims 34 to 37, for the reasons stated in the previous paragraphs above concerning the Section 112, first paragraph rejections. Specifically, if both the symbols and the continuous graphical element are borne on the same individual mechanical reel, they cannot move at two different velocities at the same time.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

10. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7 to 11, 14 to 19, 22 to 27, and 30 to 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davies (UK patent application publication GB 2 330 936 A, application 9823899.1) in view of Walker, et al. (U.S. patent 6,095,921 A).

11. As to Claim 1: Davies in '936 discloses all of the elements of Claim 1, but lacks specificity as to a continuous graphical element extending between adjacent ones of the discrete symbols such that the discrete symbols are unified by the graphical element. Davies in '936 teaches a slot machine (Page 1, Lines 4 to 8). '936 also teaches a rotatable reel (Fig. 1a) bearing a plurality of discrete symbols (Page 1, Lines 17 to 19). In '936, an inner band is driven at a first velocity, and an outer band is driven at a second velocity (Abstract; Page 6, Line 21 to Page 7, Line 9). The bands are of different diameters, so it is inherent that the symbols on the two bands will move at different velocities, even if the two bands are driven at the same angular velocity. The abstract goes further and says the bands cannot move in unison, so they thus cannot move at the same angular velocity. If the bands did move in unison, the combination of symbols on the payline would never change. The slot machine of '936 is controlled by software (Page 1, Lines 19 to 22), so it would inherently have a processor. '936 stops the reel and the plurality of discrete symbols to place the discrete symbols on the reel in visual association with a display area (Page 2, Lines 2 to 8). Walker, however, in '921 teaches a continuous graphical element (Figs. 4B-C). It would be obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art to apply the continuous graphical element of '921 to the slot machine of '936. It would be possible to support the reel strips of '921 (Figs. 4A-F) with either the reels of '936 (Fig. 1a) or the bands of '936 (Figs. 1c-e). '921 is driven by stepper motors (Col. 5, Lines 62 to 65), like '936 (Page 5, Lines 11 to 14). In one embodiment of '921, one reel of symbols is superimposed over another (Fig. 8), as is done in '936 (Abstract). The strips of '921 can be strips of discrete symbols (Figs. 4D-F), like those of '936. '921 is controlled by a processor (Fig. 1), and has backlighting (Col. 8, Lines 21 to 23), like '936. The combination would yield a slot machine with the continuous graphical element on the inner band and a plurality of discrete symbols on the outer band. This would allow the reel to rotate the continuous graphical element at a first velocity and the symbols at a second velocity. The continuous graphical symbol would cover the entire width of the inner band ('921, Figs. 4B-C), extending between and visually unifying the symbols ('921, Fig. 4A) of the transparent outer band ('936, Abstract), which do not take up the full width of the band. The advantage of this combination would be to stimulate players' interest in the game by providing a visual contrast by having an inner band with a continuous background (graphical element), and a transparent outer band with symbols superimposed over the background. The continuous background would provide an appealing contrast without interfering with the players' ability to clearly see the symbols.

12. As to Claims 3 and 24: '921 has a payable for determining the payout based on the symbols displayed in the display area (Col. 4, Lines 57 to Col. 5, Line 3).

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13. As to Claims 4, 11, 19, and 27: '921 teaches a continuous graphical element (Figs. 4B-C). In '936, the symbols on the transparent outer band are superimposed over the inner band (Abstract).

14. As to Claims 7, 14, 22, and 30: The reels of '921 can be displayed on an LCD (Col. 7, Lines 63 to 66).

15. As to Claims 8, 15, 23, and 31: The mechanical reels of '936 are driven by stepper motors (Page 5, Lines 11 to 14).

16. As to Claim 9: Davies in '936 teaches a slot machine (Page 1, Lines 4 to 8). '936 also teaches a rotatable reel (Fig. 1a) having a plurality of discrete symbol positions (plurality of symbols stopped at discrete positions, Claims 1 and 3). In '936, an inner band is driven at a first velocity, and an outer band is driven at a second velocity (Abstract; Page 6, Line 21 to Page 7, Line 9). The slot machine of '936 is controlled by software (Page 1, Lines 19 to 22), so it would inherently have a processor. '936 stops the reel and the plurality of discrete symbols to place the discrete symbols on the reel in visual association with a display area (Page 2, Lines 2 to 8). '921 teaches a continuous graphical element (Figs. 4B-C). It would be possible to support the reel strips of '921 (Figs. 4A-F) with either the reels of '936 (Fig. 1a) or the bands of '936 (Figs. 1c-e). '921 is driven by stepper motors (Col. 5, Lines 62 to 65), like '936 (Page 5, Lines 11 to 14). The combination would yield a slot machine with the continuous graphical element on the inner band and a plurality of discrete symbols on the outer band. This would allow the reel to rotate the continuous graphical element at a first velocity and the symbols at a second velocity. The continuous graphical symbol would cover the entire width of the

inner band ('921, Figs. 4B-C), extending between and visually unifying the symbols ('921, Fig. 4A) of the transparent outer band ('936, Abstract), which do not take up the full width of the band.

17. As to Claims 10 and 26: '936 teaches a rotatable reel (Fig. 1a) having a plurality of discrete symbol positions (plurality of symbols stopped at discrete positions, in visual association with a display area, Claims 1 and 3).

18. As to Claims 16, 17, 32, and 33: '429 teaches determining a payout based on movement of a discrete symbols between adjacent symbol positions (Col. 13, Lines 39 to 63), and the payout accumulating based on each position traversed by the symbol (the total expected payout of the board based on probability of landing at each position and payout of each position (Col. 13, Line 64 to Col. 14, Line 19). The trail of '429 can be thought of as a loop, since it can be cycled through multiple times by rolling the dice (Col. 13, Lines 43 to 54). It can thus be applied to one of the bands of '936 as the bands of '936 repeat multiple times as they spin around.

19. As to Claim 18: Davies in '936 teaches a slot machine (Page 1, Lines 4 to 8) controlled by a processor (software inherently controlled by processor, Page 1, Lines 19 to 22). '921 teaches receiving a wager from a player (coin acceptor 124, Fig. 1). '936 also teaches a rotatable reel (Fig. 1a) bearing a plurality of discrete symbols (Page 1, Lines 17 to 19). In '936, an inner band is driven at a first velocity, and an outer band is driven at a second velocity (Abstract; Page 6, Line 21 to Page 7, Line 9). '936 stops the reel and the plurality of discrete symbols to place the discrete symbols on the reel in visual association with a display area (Page 2, Lines 2 to 8). Walker in '921 teaches a

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continuous graphical element (Figs. 4B-C). It would be possible to support the reel strips of '921 (Figs. 4A-F) with either the reels of '936 (Fig. 1a) or the bands of '936 (Figs. 1c-e). The combination would yield a slot machine with the continuous graphical element on the inner band and a plurality of discrete symbols on the outer band. This would allow the reel to rotate the continuous graphical element at a first velocity and the symbols at a second velocity. The continuous graphical symbol would cover the entire width of the inner band ('921, Figs. 4B-C), extending between and visually unifying the symbols ('921, Fig. 4A) of the transparent outer band ('936, Abstract), which do not take up the full width of the band.

20. As to Claim 25: Davies in '936 teaches a slot machine (Page 1, Lines 4 to 8) controlled by a processor (software inherently controlled by processor, Page 1, Lines 19 to 22). '936 also teaches a rotatable reel (Fig. 1a) having a plurality of discrete symbol positions (plurality of symbols stopped at discrete positions, Claims 1 and 3). '921 teaches receiving a wager from a player (coin acceptor 124, Fig. 1). In '936, an inner band is driven at a first velocity, and an outer band is driven at a different second velocity (Abstract; Page 6, Line 21 to Page 7, Line 9). Walker in '921 teaches a continuous graphical element (Figs. 4B-C). It would be possible to support the reel strips of '921 (Figs. 4A-F) with either the reels of '936 (Fig. 1a) or the bands of '936 (Figs. 1c-e). The combination would yield a slot machine with the continuous graphical element on the inner band and a plurality of discrete symbol positions on the outer band. This would allow the reel to rotate the continuous graphical element at a first velocity and the symbol positions at a different second velocity. The continuous

graphical symbol would cover the entire width of the inner band ('921, Figs. 4B-C), extending between and visually unifying the symbols ('921, Fig. 4A) of the transparent outer band ('936, Abstract), which do not take up the full width of the band.

21. As to Claim 26: '936 stops the reel and the plurality of discrete symbols to place the discrete symbols on the reel in visual association with a display area (Page 2, Lines 2 to 8).

22. As to Claims 34 to 37: '936 teaches only a single reel in Figs. 1b and 1c.

23. Claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 20, 21, 28, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davies ('936) and Walker ('921) in view of Demar, et al. (U.S. patent 6,203,429 B1).

24. As to Claims 5 and 6: The combination of Davies ('936) and Walker ('921) discloses all of the elements of Claim 5, but lacks specificity as to the graphical element including a trail in the form of a game board path. Demar, however, in '429 teaches a graphical element that is a trail in the form of a game board path (300, Fig. 8; Col. 12, Lines 29 to 34). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the trail of '429 to the combination of '936 and '921. '429 is a slot machine (Fig. 8), like the games of '936 and '921. The trail of '429 can be thought of as a loop, since it can be cycled through multiple times by rolling the dice (Col. 13, Lines 43 to 54). It would thus be natural to apply the trail of '429 to one of the bands of '936 as the bands of '936 repeat multiple times as they spin around. Each position on the game board trail has a payout value (Col. 13, Lines 64 to 67), much like symbols on slot reels have relative values,

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with payline combinations of all one symbol having higher payouts than payline combinations of all of another symbol ('921, Fig. 2B, three cherries pay 20 on first coin, three bars pay fifty on first coin). The advantage of this combination would be to enhance interest in the game by providing a consistent, predictable theme (in this case, a popular board game) for the continuous background.

25. As to Claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 28, and 29: Demar in '429 teaches a graphical element which is a trail in the form of a game board path (300, Fig. 8; Col. 12, Lines 29 to 34).

### ***Conclusion***

26. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

27. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.



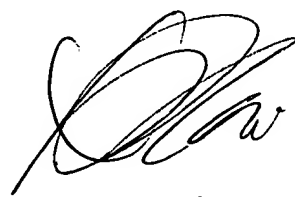
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28. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew D. Hoel whose telephone number is (571) 272-5961. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Fri., 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

29. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan M. Thai can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

30. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Matthew D. Hoel, Patent Examiner  
AU 3713



XUAN M. THAI  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TC3700